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ABSTRACT

This unit on Ancient Rome (covering a time period from 753 B.C. until A.D. 476) contains the following elements: a list of documents, with a description of each document and a brief synopsis of its historical significance to the unit's theme; the documents; and a set of activities. The unit's documents are grouped under the five categories listed in the title. Each category focuses on a particular aspect of ancient Roman life (one of the documents in each category is a Latin passage, followed by an English translation, from an ancient work that specifically relates to the category's topic). To help students understand the documents and extract as much information as possible from these primary sources, the unit provides a series of activities divided into seven categories following the documents; five of these categories complement the division of the documents, one introduces the students to historical documents, and another shows how Latin continues to live in English. The unit's activities allow students to practice the following skills and strategies: collect, organize, interpret, and weigh the significance of factual evidence to achieve a systematic analysis of documents; compare and contrast evidence from different sources; identify factual information and separate it from opinion; identify points of view and biases; and develop defensible inferences, conclusions, and generalizations from factual evidence. (BT)

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